On parturition

~~Pastrando~~ I shall now deliver a few Remarks upon Pastraition. I formerly ~~took notice~~ observed that of I did not believe there was a necessary & unchangeable connection between pain and childbearing. It is true this connection was established as part of the Curse inflicted upon ~~the loss of female~~ woman after the loss of her innocence, ~~But~~ so was the connection between labor & the sweat of the brow, in man, and yet hundreds & thousands of our fellow men live without labor, ~~&~~ ~~earn sweat only in eating~~ in the enjoyment of all the Comforts of life. Even the Curse which was ~~of~~ inflicted upon the ~~fa~~ earth has been in part repealed, by fruitful fields and highly cultivated gardens in

so many parts of the world succeeding
bryars and thorns. The pain of Childbearing
has been greatly mitigated in Turkey by the
use of Sweet Oil (which acts as a gentle
purge) during pregnancy. Climate has
done the same thing in Sicily according
to Brydone, and in some of the West India
Islands according to the report of Dr Taylor
an eminent man midwife in St Kitts. Our
inquiry therefore into the means of lessening
the pains of Childbearing is not ~~an idea~~ calculated
to defeat a law of ~~heaven~~ nature. ~~It~~ Heaven
has kindly in the instances that have been
mentioned pointed out some of the means for that
purpose. — To prepare us for the use of
~~these~~ the Remedies which are calculated to
mitigate the pains of ~~under the~~ Childbearing ~~cannot be~~ at all

2 V Previously to Childbearing, the System is generally plethoric and excitable from the Appetite, ~~and~~ want of exercise ~~of~~ ch. ~~young~~ and ~~after distended~~ from the influence of the distended state of the Uterus upon the whole System.

times, & in all countries, it will be
necessary to ~~deliver~~ premise the following
propositions. —

1 Childbearing is a disease. It appears in
a clonic spasm.
One of its worst forms viz ~~Convulsions~~
It does not militate against the truth
of this proposition, that no inflamm^n
attends it, - for we all I hope now
believe ~~that~~ disease often exists without
inflamm^n: and that it exists in its worst
forms, when it transcends inflamm^n:
~~But it sometimes appears without con-
-vulsion or spasm, from the excess, or suffo-
-cation of morbid excitement.~~

3 The operations of nature in this disease
as in ~~all~~ most others ~~of a kind that are violent~~
are often excessive, deficient, or not directed

properly to accomplish her purposes.
They are excessive. ~~is obvious in childbearing instances~~
~~where there is~~ 1 where convulsions in the
whole muscular system ~~accompany the~~
~~spasm in the Uterus~~. 2 where pains in
the bowels. 3 where hemorrhage from
the Uterus accompany the contractions of the ~~spasm~~
the Uterus. The excess of these morbid
operations of nature appears still further
in the total absence of ~~contraction~~ of contractions
in the Uterus from the suffocation of
~~the~~ its morbid excitement. It is from this excess
of disease that labors are not only unnecessarily
painful, but protracted far beyond ~~to~~ the
time necessary to expulse the fœtus. It is
probable the wrong position of the fœtus
in Utero is often owing to this cause.
~~They are~~ The operations of nature in
childbearing ~~are~~ I believe are not often

of a deficient nature. The woman who are the most debilitated by previous diseases, or by ~~delap~~ depleting remedies, have generally easy and natural births.

These three propositions being admitted I go on to remark, that the Remedies for difficult and painful parturition should be the same as for all other violent spasmodic, or con=vulsive diseases. As ~~the~~ its difficulty, and extreme pain arise ~~oft~~ much oftner from ~~excess~~ an excess of ~~for~~ natural, or ill directed force in nature, than from a deficiency of it, I shall briefly mention the Remedies for lessening pain, and shortening the duration of Labor. The 1st of these is Blood letting. I ~~mentioned~~ suggested the use of this remedy with most of the above reasons in its favour in my lectures upon physiology in the year 1792. ~~In the year 17~~ On the 18 of Jany 1795 my

~~Colleague Dr Physick called a dislocated~~ Shoulder that ~~had been dislocated for several weeks,~~ ~~in a few minutes,~~ a man came into the Pennsylvania Hospital whose shoulder bone had been dislocated for several weeks. ~~Tried in vain~~ All the usual methods of reducing it has been used to no purpose. ~~Dr Colleague~~ Dr Physick ~~whose patient he~~ to whose care he was committed, ~~prepared to make~~ began his preparations ~~a new attempt~~ to relieve him by first drawing blood from him till he fainted. While he lay ~~upon~~ in this state the Dr reduced the bone but little force, and in ~~to~~ a half a mi=nutt ~~reduced him to the bone~~ ~~to its proper~~

This easy and happy cure increased my confidence in the lancet in prostration, It is was confirmed still more by reflec=ting upon the instant relief which

~~V The~~

V ~~Tooo~~ the practice I am now advising however contrary to common prejudice I am happy to hear is not new. I have this day heard that it is recommended in the Journal of medicine for March 1774 by a french Physician. Feb: 24. 1802.

bleeding affords, in Colics, Convulsions &c
all other violent muscular & nervous
Diseases. But my high opinion of this
remedy in the Childbearing no longer
rests upon reasoning &c analogy. Dr Dewees has used
it often; and with the happiest effects.
Dr Brown formerly a pupil of Dr Physick
has introduced it into his practice in the
-ten County, and to an extent which has
added greatly to the benefits derived
from it. He seldom draws less than ℥30
of blood in the beginning of a labor. Consi-
-dering the predisposing causes of plethora
and excitability which have been mentioned, I can easily con-
-ceive a larger quantity might be drawn
in many cases with advantage.

In addition to this copious loss of blood,
the bowels should be plentifully opened by

But the beneficial effects of this V.S. and the other depleting remedies that have been mentioned, I believe would extend much further. They would probably prevent the inflamed breasts – the swelled legs – the Obstructed Lochia – the Colics – the the Uterine hemorrhages, – the head aches &c fevers which so often follow delivery. Even the fœtus would be benefitted by them, for it would suffer much less ~~by~~ from being compressed, and bruised in a tedious & painful passage to into the world.

means of Physics, and the diet & drinks ~~of~~ should ~~be of~~ consist of things that contain as little nourishment & stimulus as possible.

Perhaps an advantage would arise from advising low diet to women ten days, or two weeks, before ~~the~~ they expect to be confined, and agreeably to the Turkish practice, ~~to~~ from commencing lenient purges during the last three months of their pregnancy ~~two~~ once or twice a week. The good effects of this regimen in lessening the violence of the small pox, and yellow fever encourage us to expect similar benefits from it in the violent disease of parturition.

throes
v ~~offspring~~ and the slow progress of
delivery, indicate a deficiency of ~~[illegible]~~
strength ~~in the system equal to its~~
~~exigencies~~, Opium should be exhibited
in proportion to the exigencies of the
system. I think I have seen the hap-
-piest effects from that noble medicine
in such cases in ~~lessening the~~ destroying a portion of pain
and shortening the duration of labor.
How far a dose of Opium so powerful
as to ~~compose~~ suspend the action of the brain,
might succeed in destroying pain altogether
I know not, but the following fact
shews that it has been destroyed by a
disease which ~~suspended the action~~ produced that effect upon the
~~of the brain~~ brain. a Lady subject to Epileptic
fits was delivered ~~while I was attended~~

The cases of difficult & ~~labor~~ painful ~~for~~ delivery from a state of the system ~~reduced~~ below that state to which the above remedies are calculated to reduce it I believe rarely occur. Most of the labors which I ~~have~~ met with in the last stage of consumption, & other chronic diseases, have been short, & comparatively easy. ~~But~~ But ~~two~~ exceptions have occurred to this remark in the course of my practice.

Where there is reason to believe the ~~contractions~~ contractions in the Uterus will be too feeble from direct weakness to expel the fœtus, a cordial diet should be indulged previous to the expected time of confinement, and where the absence

of a child in one of her fitts. Immediately afterwards she fell asleep. ~~In this~~ Her child was dressed and placed by her side. In the morning ~~she~~ as soon as she awoke she saw this child, and asked with surprise, whose it was, upon ~~being~~ ~~she was~~ ~~behaved for was~~ ~~told~~ told it was hers, she declared that she had no recol=lection of having felt the least pain in bringing it into the world. This information was communicated to me by the husband of the Lady, on the day of the ~~same~~ morning in which it occurred, for I was at that time attending her for another indisposition.

You will